

**William Trent to George Washington, January 21, 1756,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of
America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

FROM WILLIAM TRENT, ESQ. ¹

MOUTH OF CONICOHEG ² 21st January 1756

DR SIR

I received yours by Mr Fraser at Carlisle as I was returning from Philadelphia as you don't acknowledge the receipt of one from me dated at Carlisle makes me imagine it miscarried in that Letter I acquainted you with the reason why I could not procure the Indians then—I have now engaged three, Crissopia to goe to Kittannen and Fort Du Quesne and two others to goe to the Twigtwees³ provided you choose to send them—Crissopia asks Twenty Pounds and each of the others Twenty five pounds—I thought it a great deal of money therefore did not choose to agree with them Punctually till you were acquainted with their demands—If you choose to send them if you'll draw out your Instructions and send any Officer with them to Fort Littleton about Twenty Miles from Stodards first giving me Notice of the time you intend to send there I will send to M Croghan to bring the Indians there against the time, he promised to bring them if I wrote to him that you wanted them and I will send any goods or Wampum you will have occasion for—This was the best manner I could manage it for you should I have carried them to the Fort, & they would not goe without a White Man with them & you have thought it too high Wages they would have been affronted unless they had been paid as much allmost as they were to have had to

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gone to the Fort so I thought this the most prudent way & am in hopes you will be of the same way of thinking I parted with Governour Morris & the Commissioners at Carlisle the 19th there was no Indians at the Treaty except those that keep with Mr. Croghan either the 22d or 23d of this Month General Johnston is to meet the the Six Nations at his House to demand the Reason why they suffer the Delawares and Shawnesse to kill the English and to demand their Assistance and to insist upon a positive answer General Shirley has given orders for a Treaty with the Southern Indians, the Governments of Pennsylvania Virginia and Maryland are to send Commissioners and he has wrote to the Governours of ye Carolinas to assist at the Treaty and appoint the place where it is to be held —

The Pennsylvanians have Raised three Hundred Men in Cumberland County who are building Four Forts to be Garrisoned with 75 Men each, the Forts about 20 Miles distant each from the other, One at the Sugar Cabbins called Fort Littleton Commanded by Capt. Hanee Hamilton, One at Aughwich Capt. Geor. Croghan called Fort Shirley, One at Mockingtongs called Pomfret Castle Capt. James Patterson they give their Men 45/ Pr Month the Capts 7/6 Lts 5/6 Ensigns 4/6 Pr day though its thought they'll raise the Capts. pay to 10/pr day —

By the Last Accounts from England they expect an Invasion and are fortyfying the Coast, they had then 343 Sail of Vessels lyeing in the Harbours which they had taken from the French I am

Dr Sir Your most humb St WILLIAM TRENT PS You'll oblige me to send me the Ballance of that Accot by ye first oppertunity W T

1 William Trent was a friend and business partner of Benjamin Franklin.—BROCK.

2 Conococheague.

3 Mr. Gist, who visited the Twigtwees in February, 1751, described them as follows: "The Twigtwees are a very numerous people, consisting of many different tribes under the same form of government. Each tribe has a particular chief, or king, one of whom is chosen indifferently out of any tribe to rule the whole nation, and is vested with greater authority than any of the others. They are accounted the most powerful nation to the westward of the English settlements, and are much superior to the Six Nations, with whom they are now in amity. They formerly lived on the farther side of the Wabash, and were in the French interest. They have now revolted from them, and have left their former habitations for the sake of trading with the English." The town visited by Mr. Gist was on the

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north bank of the Miami River, about a hundred and fifty miles from its mouth. The town consisted of about four hundred families. Wynne says that the Twigtwee Indians were the same as the Ottawas. The French wrote the name Tuigtuis.—SPARKS.